

**Sunday Worship Service – August 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**

Welcome

Land Acknowledgment Statement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to the Bible Readings*

Today in the Old Testament reading from Isaiah, we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. In the gospel reading from Matthew, the Canaanite woman is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. Jesus commends her bold faith and reminds us of our continued mission to those on the margins of society. Worshipping together, we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

Prayer of Confession¹

Loving and gracious God, we long to see in the Canaanite woman a child of God worthy of mercy and compassion. But our prejudices, known and unknown, may lead us to dismiss her out of hand, as Jesus' disciples did before us. It can be difficult and challenging at times to open our hearts to those who are different from ourselves. Help us to continue to open our hearts and minds to the joy of accepting the diversity of all whom you have created.

Words of Forgiveness

#712 Gathering Hymn “*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*”

1. **Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed; we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart, consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.**

¹ *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020* © 2019 Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

2. Still your children wander homeless, still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.
3. As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.
4. Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, goodwill and comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

p. 184 **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Call to Worship²

How good it is when we gather in unity and love.
How beautiful is this body of Christ.
How good it is when we gather in mercy and grace.
How beautiful is the love we have come to share.

p.185 **Canticle of Praise "Glory to God"**

Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

1. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

² *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017* © 2016 Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

- 2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

- 3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Final Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

Prayer of the Day*

*God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call
upon you. Teach us as disciples of Jesus to love all people, just as Jesus
did. May your love for all people be made known through our love for all
people. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

Isaiah 56:1-8

*In the Old Testament reading, the prophet Isaiah calls upon Israel to do
justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Obedience and
justice define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race,
nationality, or any other category.*

A reading from Isaiah, the 56th chapter:

God says: Act justly and do what is righteous, because my salvation is
coming soon, and my righteousness will be revealed.

Happy is the one who does this, the person who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath, not making it impure, and avoids doing any evil.

Don't let the immigrant who has joined with God say, "God will exclude me from the people." And don't let the eunuch say, "I'm just a dry tree."

God says: To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, choose what I desire, and remain loyal to my covenant. In my temple and courts, I will give them a monument and a name better than sons and daughters. I will give to them an enduring name that won't be removed. The immigrants who have joined me, serving me and loving my name, becoming my servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath without making it impure, and those who hold fast to my covenant: I will bring them to my holy mountain, and bring them joy in my house of prayer. I will accept their entirely burned offerings and sacrifices on my altar.

My house will be known as a house of prayer for all peoples, says God, who gathers Israel's outcasts. I will gather still others to those I have already gathered.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 67

O Holy One, be gracious to us and bless us;

**let your face shine among us so your way may be known in the world,
your saving help among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God.

Indeed, let all peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge with truth and justice, and guide the nations of the world.

Let the peoples praise you, Holy One. Indeed, let all peoples praise you.

May the earth yield its harvest.

May the Holy One, our God, bless us.

May God bless us,

and all the ends of the earth revere the Holy One.

p. 188 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

In the gospel reading Jesus teaches the disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches Jesus for help.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, "Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession." But Jesus didn't respond to her at all. Jesus' disciples came and urged him, "Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us."

Jesus replied, "I've been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel." But she knelt before Jesus and said, "Help me, Rabbi."

Jesus replied, "It is not good to take the children's bread and toss it to dogs."

She said, "True, Rabbi. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters' table."

Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish." And right then her daughter was healed.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: God's Love is for Everyone

#716 Hymn of the Day “Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace” (v.1-2,4-5)

1. Lord of all nations, grant me grace to love all people, ev’ry race;
and in each person may I see my kindred, loved, redeemed by thee.
2. Break down the wall that would divide thy children, Lord, on every side.
My neighbor’s good let me pursue; let Christian love bind warm and true.
4. Give me thy courage, Lord, to speak whenever strong oppress the weak.
Should I myself the victim be, help me forgive, rememb’ring thee.
5. With thine own love may I be filled and by thy Holy Spirit willed,
that all I touch, where’er I be, may be divinely touched by thee.

Affirmation of Faith³

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of humankind in all our diversity.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of compassion, he died forsaken;
he descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb;
he ascended into heaven to be everywhere present;
and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit,
life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession*

With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church,
those in need, and all of God’s creation. *A brief silence.*

For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all
be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on
earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

³ The Ionian Creed, *The Iona Abbey Worship Book* © 2001 Wild Goose Publications.

For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind. We particularly pray for all those who live with dementia and family and friends who care for them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our healer. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering Prayer*

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

p.190 Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,
to give thanks to you, who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life

And so with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.190 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer⁴

Holy God, our Bread of Life, our Table, and our Food,
You created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
And you fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
You sent Jesus to eat with outcasts and to become food for the world.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup,
Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
Strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of Christ.

⁴ *With One Voice: Leaders Edition*, p.72.

For all these gifts, we give our thanks and praise. Amen.

Celtic Lord's Prayer⁵

Holy One beyond all names, Eternal Wellspring
 May love rise again in us today, with food for every table
 Shelter for every family, and reverence for every life.
 Forgive us our failings in love, and free us from all falseness
 That the light of our souls may shine, and the strength of our spirits endure
 For Earth and all its people, this day, tonight, and forever. Amen.

Communion (for online worshippers)

The body of Christ given for you. *(eat bread)*
 The blood of Christ shed for you. *(drink wine)*

Communion Distribution

We believe that Jesus is the true host of this meal
 And if it is your desire to receive holy communion,
 we believe the Holy Spirit has placed that desire in your heart
 and it is Jesus who welcomes and invites you.
 We understand this as a meal in which we receive God's love and forgiveness
 through Christ's presence in the bread and wine or grape juice,
 just as Jesus is present in and among each and everyone of us.

We offer bread and gluten free bread.
 If you wish to receive gluten free bread, just let me know.
 We also offer wine and grape juice.
 The wine is red and the grape juice is white.
 At this time, I will invite our communion assistants and usher forward as we
 prepare for communion distribution.

The congregation is invited to begin singing the Lamb of God, followed by
 the communion hymn "*One Bread, One Body*" #496

Commune assistants, then assistant communes pastor

⁵ Written by John Philip Newell.

p.191 ***Lamb of God***

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

#496 Communion Hymn “*One Bread, One Body*”

Refrain:

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all; one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.**

- 1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man no more.**

Refrain

- 2. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.**

Refrain

- 3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all.**

Refrain

Communion Blessing

Prayer after communion*

Announcements

Blessing

Children of God, may we go into the world in peace

May we love boldly,

May we proclaim loudly,

May we welcome, include, and celebrate all,

And return here knowing that all are welcome here.

May this community of faith continue to be a place of care and renewal.

In the name of the Holy Trinity, + Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter.

#547 Sending Hymn “*Sent Forth by God’s Blessing*”

- 1. Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.**

The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
 the fruits of this service in all who believe.
 The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
 shall blossom in action for God and for all.
 Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
 to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God everliving,
 the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face –
 our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
 embracing God's children, the whole human race.
 With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
 unite us as one in this life that we share.
 Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
 give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.
Thanks be to God!

Sources:

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB).
 Those parts of this worship service marked with an asterisk (*) are adapted from:
<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources#texts>